

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 21

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 21.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

U.S. SHOULD NOT SUPPORT HEZBOLLAH ROLE IN LEBANON

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, on the front page of the New York Times, there is a story that says "U.S. Called Ready to See Hezbollah in Lebanon Role. A Sharp Policy Reversal."

The article states, "After years of campaigning against Hezbollah, the radical Shiite Muslim party in Lebanon, as a terrorist pariah, the Bush administration is grudgingly going along with efforts by France and the UN to steer the party into the Lebanese political mainstream, administration officials say."

Administration officials say, what a mistake. What a mistake to deal with terrorists. President Bush has repeatedly said that we should not deal with terrorists. There are no good terrorists. There are no good terrorists. All terrorists are bad. Hezbollah has American blood on its hands. It killed more than 200 U.S. Marines in Beirut in 1983 and is responsible for hundreds and hundreds of killings of Israeli citizens.

Resolution 1559 of the UN Security Council which passed a few months ago, sponsored by the U.S. and France, says that Syria should get out of Lebanon, that all militias, including Hezbollah, should be disarmed.

Why are we changing policy now? We should not deal with terrorists. We should not compromise with terrorists. Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. We are moving in this body to pass a resolution calling on the Europeans to label Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, to dry up their funds.

Terrorists should not be dealt with. The administration is making a mistake.

SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that the hunger for freedom is a deep yearning in the hearts of all people. Freedom from oppressive regimes, freedom from living in fear, and freedom from an invasive hatred that turns neighbor against neighbor.

We watched 8 million Iraqis risk their lives to vote for their own government, and we witnessed Palestin-

ians choose a course of diplomacy with Israel rather than continuing a course of terror. In Lebanon, we are seeing the seeds of liberty being sown as people take to the streets seeking the power to control their own lives.

Democracies are not born overnight. For our own security and future, we must be resolved in our support for people who want a governing structure rooted in personal liberty and that compliments their own country's culture. I take heart in believing that we are pursuing the right course of action as I remember the brave faces of Iraqis smiling behind a purple finger raised in defiance of terror, oppression and hatred.

PAYING TOO MUCH INTEREST ON FEDERAL SPENDING

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, it is official. Last night, the House Budget Committee passed a budget which will, in a few short years, require us to spend more money on interest payments to bond holders than we spend on domestic government in the United States of America.

Let me be precise. We will be spending more on budget interest to bond holders, many of whom are foreign, than we spend on domestic nondefense discretionary spending in this country. This will happen by the year 2009.

What a tragedy. We are spending more money on bond holders than we are on our own citizens. It took 204 years to have this happen. The other party will not even allow a recorded vote on this issue so that we can see how people stand on that issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Blue Dog reform package. It is tough against the deficit. To some of our Republican friends, if you want to reduce these deficits, get on that bill.

WORKFORCE ESSENTIALS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and congratulate Workforce Essentials in Clarksville, Tennessee, for its innovation and its attentiveness to the needs of the area it serves.

In Clarksville, we have a great program that is in place. It is an initiative called an Army of One Plus One. The program is attuned to the needs of the areas veterans, military spouses and retirees. Their good work was recognized last Friday night by the National Association of Work Force Partnerships as this year's recipient of the Theodore E. Small award, which recognizes the successful implementation of the program, which is a partnership with the 101st Airborne at Ft. Campbell

and alongside the Tennessee Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Defense by identifying the military as a primary sector of the workforce. The spouses of soldiers, the veterans and the entire community have benefitted from this partnership.

The CEO of Workforce Essentials, Ross Jackson and his great team plus the outstanding team at Ft. Campbell, led by General Turner and Colonel Ruggley, are to be commended for providing their great work.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lifetime's Stop the Violence Week and highlight the epidemic of domestic violence in our Nation; 85 percent of the victims are women. But only half of them report an injury. And of these, only a few percent even seek out medical assistance.

Domestic violence is a serious health concern but for too long has been treated solely as a criminal issue. So I will soon reintroduce the Domestic Violence Screening Treatment and Prevention Act. This bill would train health professionals to assess victims for signs of abuse and prepare them for intervention if needed.

Routine screening by a physician or a nurse could unlock options for thousands of women. Mr. Speaker, Congress must ensure domestic violence screening is common medical practice, in every doctor's office in every State.

Routine screening will enable early detection of domestic violence before it becomes life threatening. So I urge my colleagues not to ignore this nationwide epidemic. And let us work hard to institute a public health protocol for addressing this major epidemic in our society today.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on every issue our Nation faces it is our responsibility to ensure that the policies we pursue are consistent with the values that we cherish. The Bush Administration's 2006 budget fails in every respect. It is fiscally reckless, adding trillions of dollars to the deficit over the next 10 years.

It is morally irresponsible in funding for key homeland security, veterans benefits, health care and educational programs. And despite the fact that the President has called privatizing Social Security his top domestic priority this year, his budget includes no details on this plan.

Mr. Speaker, this money that it is going to take to institute his plan